AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A method ~~as recited~~ for generating a counter in ~~Claim 14~~ a receiving device for digital data streams, ~~further~~ comprising:

generating the digital data streams in a transmitting device by sampling at a sampling frequency synchronized by a system time clock in the transmitting device;

determining the sampling frequency of one of the data streams in the receiving device;

synchronizing the counter with the determined sampling frequency of the one of the data streams;

setting an increment of the ~~system time clock~~ counter; and

determining the increment from a ratio between a program clock reference and the sampling frequency.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising:

setting the increment to a constant value based on a nominal sampling frequency.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising:

comparing an instantaneous presentation time stamp of a packetized elementary data stream used to determine the sampling frequency with an instantaneous count of the ~~system time clock~~ counter; and

correcting the increment of the ~~system time clock~~ counter according to a comparison result.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim [[14]] 15, further comprising:

determining the sampling frequency from the data stream having the greatest sampling frequency of any of the available data streams.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim [[14]] 15, wherein [[:]] the digital data streams are packetized elementary data streams that include compressed video and audio data streams according to the Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) standard.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A receiving device as recited in Claim 20, comprising:

a transport data stream demultiplexer for demultiplexing a transport data stream into packetized elementary data streams and for extracting flags that identify a presentation time stamp for the purpose of initializing a counter;

a unit for correctly determining a sampling frequency of one of the packetized elementary data streams;

an output control unit for synchronizing data streams obtained from the packetized elementary data streams; and

a synchronization unit for synchronizing the counter according to the sampling frequency;

wherein [[:]] the synchronization unit sets an increment of the system time clock counter, the increment being determined from a ratio between a program clock reference and a nominal sampling frequency.

22. (Currently Amended) The receiving device as recited in Claim [[20]] 21, wherein [[:]] the increment is set to a constant value based on a nominal sampling frequency.

23. (Currently Amended) The receiving device as recited in Claim [[20]] 21, wherein:

the synchronization unit compares an instantaneous value of the presentation time stamp of the packetized elementary data stream used to determine the sampling frequency with an instantaneous count of the system time clock counter; [[,]] and

the synchronization unit corrects [[an]] the increment of the system time clock counter according to a comparison result.

24. (Currently Amended) The receiving device as recited in Claim [[20]] 21, wherein:

the unit for correctly determining the sampling frequency determines the sampling frequency from a selected packetized elementary data stream of different packetized elementary data streams; [[,]] and

the output control unit synchronizes all packetized elementary data streams with the ~~system time clock~~ counter.

25. (Currently Amended) The receiving device as recited in Claim 24, wherein [[:]] the sampling frequency is determined from the elementary data stream having the greatest sampling frequency of any of the available packetized elementary data streams.

26 (Currently Amended) The receiving device as recited in Claim [[20]] 21, wherein [[:]] the packetized elementary data streams are compressed video and audio data streams according to the Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) standard.

27. (New) The receiving device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

the sampling frequency is determined from a selected packetized elementary data stream of different packetized elementary data streams; and

all packetized elementary data streams are synchronized with the counter.